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miss, is that to be all general appropriations or that funding is coming from other sources. I did miss the source of this fund that you're going to be creating or what your intent is or maybe you haven't discussed it, but that's my question.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: This is a General Fund appropriation. Right now there are eight teachers who are nationally certified. This would cap the 7,500 dollar amount, which is in the bill, at 133 teachers, and the fiscal note on the bill estimates from the Department of Education, and this is a guess on their part, that we'd add about 20 teachers a year. So it will be many years before we would hit that 133 teacher cap, but at the current time, you could only expend the amount for the teacher bonus for those who are actually certified. It would be a growing fund not to exceed a million dollars on that portion. The bill also provides for the cost of taking this certification test, they are...it does have an amount associated with it and that would be capped at 40 teachers a year, first come, first served applying to the department. So they would be able to get half...they would be able to get a loan, half of it is paid and the other half would be reimbursed to them or they wouldn't have to pay if they passed the test.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: What bill was this?

SENATOR THOMPSON: This was LB 1226. The amendment of the committee reduces the bonus from \$10,000, as proposed in the bill, to \$7,500.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: And so what...you said it is going to be phased in. What...what do you foresee the A bill looking like once this amendment is passed? Is it a phase-in over a period of time or is it a million dollars up front or...

SENATOR THOMPSON: No, the million dollars would probably be many years down the road. This year there are 8 teachers that would get the \$7,500. There is \$10,000 to administer the program and the remainder sets up the loan program, which is now capped at 40 teachers. So 40 teachers could apply for \$2,300 to take the test, which is they would have the first half paid for,